



Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in opposition to
Senate Bill 873 An Act Concerning Colon Hydrotherapy Services
Public Health Committee
February 20, 2013

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the almost 7,000 physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in opposition to Senate Bill 873 An Act Concerning Colon Hydrotherapy Services. Regardless of whether a person has obtained certification as a hydro therapist by the National Board for Colon Hydrotherapy, the issue of hydrotherapy itself raises significant questions which must lead us to oppose this legislation.

Currently, the Connecticut Medical Examining Board (CMEB) is in the midst of a declaratory ruling process to determine “whether colonic irrigation for non-medical use may be administered by unlicensed non-medical personnel in a non-medical facility without medical supervision or consultation.”

CSMS submitted comments to the CMEB as part of its process of review in support of the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG), , standing behind the clear scientific opinion that colonic irrigation is clearly a medical procedure to be used only for medical purposes and should only be administered by properly trained and/or licensed personnel. In addition, we supported the submission by ACG delineating that little evidence exists supporting general health promotion from colonic cleansing at this point in time. Conversely, the risks of serious adverse events are well-demonstrated in scientific and peer-reviewed published literature.

While we raise great concern with the efficacy of colon hydrotherapy as well as its use by non-medical personnel, we offer that the General Assembly, under the leadership of this committee, recently enacted Public Act 11-207 to establish an independent process through the Department of Public Health to establish a Scope of Practice Review committee. This process has proved beneficial in addressing several medical issues since its enactment. Although we question the use of colon hydrotherapy as proposed tied to this legislation, should there be interest in further reviewing the capabilities of personnel trained to provide such services, we suggest that

proponents submit a proposal when appropriate for review as established under Public Act 11-207 and CSMS would be happy to engage in the outlined process of comment and evaluation.

Please oppose SB 873.